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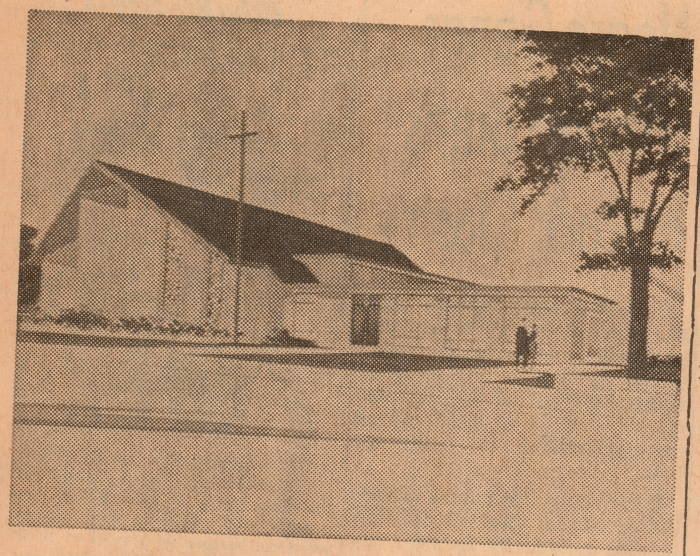

THIS IS an architect's drawing of the proposed new Rawsonville Community Church on Morris Avenue, between McGregor and Moeller in Ypsilanti Township. The addition will house 400 people in the sanctuary, and have 12 classrooms and an assembly room in the basement. Rev. Clint Manning is the pastor and Z. T. Gerganoff, the architect.

Little Red Schoolhouse Becomes Sunday School

The little red school house below the hill in Rawsonville was the scene for the first Sunday School of the Rawsonville Community Church in the summer of 1941. Parishioners had attempted to establish a Sunday school prior to that time, but the attempts were unsuccessful and it wasn't until a Baptist minister, a Rev. Bridwell from Wayne, started the Sunday school with an audience of about 10 children and two adults.

Rev. Bridwell's faith in God and his fellow man, prompted him to continue working with the parishioners, and gradually the attendance increased until the average for the year was recorded at 35.

In the latter part of May in 1942, the Bridwells left the Sunday school and a few Sundays later, the Rev. William Shaw, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Ypsilanti, took over the Sunday School and helped to reorganize the Sunday School and he started evening church services.

The Rev. George Jerome, alternated with the preaching and directed the Sunday School in the morning. He too was a Baptist minister in Ypsilanti.

Later a daily vacation Bible school was held during the summer of 1942 and on January 10, 1943, church history indicates that meeting was held in the school to form a sort of Round Table to decide matters of church and Sunday School.

PATTERN

The attendance for 1943 began at 43. In January of 1945, Rev. and Mrs. Rydberg were asked to take over the Sunday School work regularly. The attendance in the Sunday School increased to an average of 43.8 the first quarter and 49.2 the next quarter of 1945.

In November of 1945 a building fund was started for a new church. Present quarters were too small. Mrs. Rydberg was the instrument God used to get this started. She firmly avowed in the verse found in Proverbs 29:18, "Where there is no vision the people perish".

With this thought in her mind and heart, she along with several faithful followers, began to work diligently in seeking members and funds for a new church. Prayer meetings were held and a special collection was taken each Sunday for the building fund.

It was to be noted that God touched hearts and softened them so that they gave freely that which belonged to Him.

Rev. Rydberg designed plans for the new church and he and Hollis Humphrey began laying blocks. Many other parishioners assisted in the construction of the current structure and the building was finished enough so the congregation could move into the sanctuary by July of 1947.

A charter was drawn up for the church and there were six charter members. The congregation attendance has increased so greatly that it is now necessary for the church to be enlarged. Current plans, proposed by Z.T. Gerganoff indicate that an addition, approximately three times larger than the current structure will be built, which will seat 400 persons in the sanctuary, plus 12 classrooms and an assembly room in the basement. The new church will also have a kitchen and restroom facilities.

The current building will be converted into classrooms which will total 21.

Other ministers, who have held pastorates here include the Rev. Jim Custer, who served a year and is now a missionary in Nigeria, Rev. Paul Lack, who pastored for a year and the current pastor, the Rev. Clint Manning, who has held the pastorate since January of 1956.

Today's congregation totals 100 and the Sunday School enrollment carries 180 names.

...E DEPARTMENT

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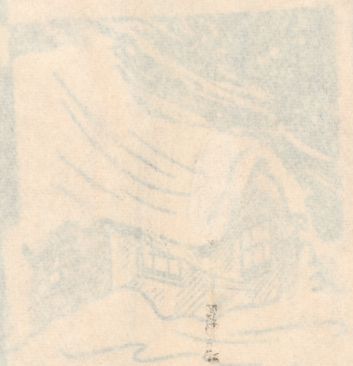

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Negro Gangs, White Youths In Race Clash

CHICAGO (AP)—Negro youth gangs attacked a white man with ax handles and hurled explosives on two young white girls as racial violence erupted for the third straight day in a tense, mixed neighborhood on the Southwest Side.

Besieged police patrols cruised the streets as the toll of wounded persons injured by roving gangs of young Negroes rose to 18.

Atty. Elgin, Ill., man, Fred Vaughn Jr., told police four Negroes beat him with ax handles early today as he walked from a cleaning store to his brother's home. He was hospitalized with head cuts and bruises.

The girls, Linda Rivers, 14, and Alice Reason, 13, told officers they were sitting on the ramps of a porch when four or five young Negroes stopped on the sidewalk, hurled a few remarks and then a homemade bomb containing steel pellets. Both girls were hospitalized with cuts.

Sixty-four Negroes were rounded up by police Friday as tension mounted in the area.

Police said 51 of the 64 Negroes in their late teens or early 20's were charged with disorderly conduct, disturbing the peace. Twenty juveniles were sent home to their parents, 28 others were charged with unlawful assembly and disturbing the peace and five were sent to a juvenile home.

Police said 49 of the 64 seized is or younger.

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